
IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

APRIL 8, 1858.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. STUART made the following

R E P O R T .

[To accompany Bill S. 249.]

The Committee on Public Lands, to whom was referred the memorial of the Milwaukie and Mississippi Railroad Company, respectfully report :

That they are unanimously of opinion that the prayer of the memorialists should be granted, and they report a bill for that purpose. The facts are substantially and truly stated in the memorial of the company, a copy of which is annexed to this report.

To the honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled :

The Milwaukie and Mississippi Railroad Company, in the State of Wisconsin, respectfully represents, that the western terminus of their road is on the east bank of the Mississippi river, at Prairie du Chien, in the said State of Wisconsin, at which point the company have purchased from the original proprietors, and are now the owners, in fee simple, of a tract of land used for depot purposes, embracing the whole river front of private land claims numbers thirty-six and thirty-seven, of Lucius Lyon's survey of private land claims at Prairie du Chien, now of record in the office of the Commissioner of the General Land Office ; that lying in front of said depot grounds, and between them and the main channel of the river, is a small island, which is separated from the main land by a narrow channel or slough, and which island and slough it is necessary to cross in order to reach the main channel in lower stages of water ; and in order to perfect a convenient landing it is necessary to bridge the slough and fill the island, as well as to make other improvements which the company are deterred from doing, for the reason that certain parties claim that the island is the property of the general government, and intend to make application for the

same under the pre-emption laws ; that the island is almost wholly opposite the grounds of said company, is low, wet, and marshy, and valueless for agricultural purposes, and in high water is overflowed from eight to ten feet ; that it is about fifty chains long by seven chains wide at low water, and contains about thirty-five acres of land, and is not surveyed or shown upon the maps of surveys made by said Lucius Lyon, and has heretofore been considered of no value.

And your memorialists further represent, that they have constructed a railroad from Milwaukie, on Lake Michigan, to the Mississippi river, without the benefit of a land grant or other aid from the government.

Your memorialists, therefore, respectfully ask that an act be passed confirming the title to said island to the Milwaukie and Mississippi Railroad Company.

Read and adopted, at Milwaukie, this third day of March, A. D. 1858.

JOHN CATTIN,

President of the Milwaukie and Mississippi Railroad Co.

Attest :

WM. TANTON, *Secretary.*